

W2ASACT MEETING NOTES

September 13, 2016, 9:30 am to 12 pm
Department of Commerce Building, Room 228
310 S Park Avenue, Helena, MT 59620

Members/public present:

Rika Lashley	Morrison-Maierle	Julie Flynn	MBOI
Mark Smith	DEQ/PPA/SRF	Sienna Meredith	US EPA
Bill Herbolich	DNRC/RDB	Chris Carparelli	DNRC/RDB
Anna Miller	DNRC/FDB	Rick Duncan	DNRC/FDB
Lindsay Volpe	DNRC/RDB	Craig Erickson	Great West Eng.
Elisa Prescott	Great West Eng.		

Via Conf. Phone:

Steve Troendle USDA/RD
Crystal Morgan NCI Engineering

Call to Order, Sign-in Sheet, Agenda Changes

Lindsay Volpe, Chair, called the scheduled meeting of the Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (W2ASACT) to order at 9:35am, on Tuesday, September 13, 2016. Sign-in sheet, meeting agenda and copies of the March 8 meeting notes were available to all those in attendance. Those present as well as those via conference phone, briefly introduced themselves. The notes from the June 14, 2016 meeting were distributed. Mark Smith made a motion to accept the minutes and Anna Miller a second and the minutes were approved and adopted. One update was made to correct a typographical error in the minutes.

Subcommittee Updates

W2ASACT Workshops:

Steve Troendle- No Fall workshops are scheduled. Next workshops will be in 2017 starting with Montana Rural Water Conference www.mrws.org February 22nd-24th. The subsequent workshops for the Spring have not been scheduled.

Workshops Committee Members

Mark Smith-DEQ
Jennifer Olson-DOC
Steve Troendle-RD
Julie Flynn-BOI
Erinn Zindt-MAP
John Camden-MRW
Alice Stanley-DNRC

Uniform Application and Standard Documents:

Mark Smith- No new information to report. Committee members were not present at meeting. Mark suggested updating committee.

Standard Documents Committee Members

Bob Fischer-DNRC (Chair)
Richard Knatterud-DOC
Karen Sanchez-RD
Marc Golz-DEQ

Mike Abrahamson-DEQ

Website:

Lindsay Volpe- If there are changes that need to be made or things that need to be included on the website, contact Lindsay.

WASACT Web Site Committee Members

Lindsay Volpe-DNRC (Chair)

Becky Anseth-DOC

Program Updates-Everyone

Anna Miller:

Summer has been moving along with a lot of projects going on and preparing for construction season. Anna has been working with partner programs to fund projects. FY16 has 70 million in funding (busy)

Mark Smith:

Finished working on intended use plans for next year and FY16 have normal cycle progress. DEQ has been dealing with internal HR reorganization with may affect the DEQ review of plans and specs. Engineering Bureau is now part of the Water Quality Division. The priority list is available online and fund is available for projects now. Mark discussed the bypass letter to fund lower ranked projects. No reports from Paul LaVigne to update group on.

Julie Flynn:

Intercap is increasing the number of small loans (vehicles). Bob Murdo's group is financing small street maintenance districts for city and town issue bonds. Program is busy.

Craig Erickson:

Great West Engineering has opened an office in Boise. Craig has had the opportunity to learn how Idaho funding programs work and is also obtaining CDBG certification. Idaho does not have a TSEP/CDBG equivalent and is similar to how Montana has been structured for funding in the past. They have no W2ASACT equivalent. He is modeling a funding spreadsheet for Idaho similar to the one W2ASACT uses for projects. Idaho has a water resources board similar to DNRC funding but not equal to project funding. Interestingly, Idaho communities cannot raise rates for project funding similar to MT. They go to court or to voters for increases.

Bill Herbolich:

The DNRC private grant program has an \$8,000 balance. Requesting \$50,000 funding for FY17-19 (previous biennium had a zero ask).

Rika Lashley:

No updates.

Elisa Prescott:

No updates.

Sienna Meredith:

Tribal funding set asides in past were managed by EPA and now have turned to IHS. Money is consolidated into SDS program and is out of the Denver office hands. Funding criteria is dissimilar to EPA and smaller projects are not addressed. EPA does not have funding until the end of September.

After a decade of work, Pinesdale is approaching completion.

Steve Troendle:

Partnering with IHS in Poplar and the Tribe ranks projects. IHS managing the EPA funds has been going well; not enough money for projects. Steve is interested in leveraging money with IHS. He is looking into management compliance of funding for accounting. RD has obligated 58.3 million in 52 projects in Montana.

In the last 6 months, RD has had some turnover in 40% of staff with a 58.3 million obligation. Contact Steve if you're having project issues aren't able to obtain information from staff. Connor O'keefe and Eric Joyce are no longer working with RD and one retirement is coming down the line.

Interest rates are as follows: poverty=1 3/8, intermediate=1 7/8, market=2.37

Crystal Morgan:
No Updates

Chris Carparelli:
New RRGL Grant Manager. Chris will be working on project across the State.

Lindsay Volpe:
DNRC Resource Development Bureau has hired two new grant managers: Chris Carparelli (RRGL) and Heidi Anderson Fohnagy. The May 2016 round of RRGL applications has been ranked and is awaiting approval. Ranked list should be available in November. DNRC has finished moving into new building: 1539 11th Avenue, Helena, MT 59602.

Rick Duncan:
Report will be included in the Regional Water Updates.

Congressional Updates

Anna Miller:
Hoping the Government will keep their doors open. No news from office representatives.

Project Updates

Emergency Projects Update

Brady: community water pipe repairs from lightening repairs.

Flathead Co. Water and Sewer District/Columbia Heights: low water pressure/leaky pipes.

Neihart: CDBG intake structure. Bridge cannot hold vehicles and they needed a temporary bridge installed to make repairs. Superfund clean up issues are needing additional funds. Connecting with Gus Byrom. They are meeting state regulations but cannot operate with a 90% water loss.

Tribal Update

Blackfeet and Browning- RD receivership for contract. there is a huge judgement from tribal court against the town. pH risk is the current issue and has been abandoned. The water system has been taken over from town. A trustee is currently looking to work with Glacier County. EPA enforcement is moving from formal to non-formal action. EPA is moving forward carefully. East Glacier Water Treatment Plant has a membrane issue and is not being properly maintained. IHS has funding for new filtration system but no certified operator. Currently, there are a lot of resources attention to certify operators. Nothing in the safe drinking water act requires licensed operators and the system appears to be in jeopardy. A local college has set up a training program. ID has the same problem.

Heart Butte- combined system replacing roof. They selected an engineer for a PER offered planning grant money for numerous versions and not mobbing forward to completion.

Regional Water Update

Fort Peck- Dry Prairie:

Fort Peck Tribes–Divers have determined that the screens at the raw water intake are in good shape, and there were no sand bars present. Modification of the intake to decrease suspended solids will be started this year; this is a project which will cost about \$250K. Plans are proceeding for installation of the pre-sedimentation and pre-oxidation basin structures at the WTP, to remove fine-grained sediments from the raw water before it enters the plant. The Bureau of Reclamation has the lead in this process; the project engineer anticipates submitting plans and specs to Reclamation for review by November, with construction to proceed in 2017.

The Frazer-to-Porcupine Creek main pipe segment is complete. Distribution lines within the community of Frazer have been flushed, so the community is now receiving regional water.

Work on installation of branch service mains between Poplar and Wolf Point, which began in the spring of 2015, is complete between the WTP and Poplar, and will be finished between the WTP and Wolf Point this year. There are >400 connections in this segment.

Bids were opened in September 2015 for installation of service line mains between Poplar and Fort Kipp, and is expected to be completed in autumn of 2016. Additionally, the branch lines from Poplar to Big Muddy are 35-40% complete (as of the first week of September).

Plans for the next major on-Reservation infrastructure include the mainline north from a point east of Poplar to the north Reservation boundary, known as the R-Y Road segment. Bids on that phase were recently opened, with low bid coming in at less than the master plan estimates. It is anticipated that the Tribes will award the project yet in 2016, provided that sufficient funds are appropriated by Congress. Favorable bids indicate a \$1 million savings over the Master Plan.

Dry Prairie:

The City of Glasgow notified Dry Prairie in April that they would NOT be contracting to receive regional water from the Authority. Accordingly, Dry Prairie's engineering team has been re-working plans for the pipeline between Nashua and Glasgow, with plans currently to down-size from the 16-inch diameter to one 12-inch diameter line. Due to the fact that 76% of project construction costs are covered by the Federal government, this will result in approximately \$4 million in project cost reduction for the Dry Prairie portions. If Glasgow were ever to decide it wants water from the regional plant, they would pay the entire amount of development costs for installation of a second 12-inch diameter main from

Nashua to Glasgow:

There are both a DNRC TSRWS construction funding and a Drinking Water SRF (DW-SRF) loan in 2016 for the project, which will supplement Federal project funds, for construction of the Valley County Area "B" segment west-northwest of Glasgow. Macon, the successful bidder for that project, began work late in 2015. Completion of the project is anticipated in Autumn 2016.

Dry Prairie's next project on the east side is East Medicine Lake Phase 2, which has been bid. Work will begin in Autumn 2016, and will conclude in mid 2017 following winter shutdown.

Rocky Boy's-North Central:

Chippewa-Cree Construction Corporation–The Tribal construction corporation has been working on installation of two 30-inch diameter water mains for the future purpose of conveying raw water

from the intake facility located adjacent to Tiber Dam on Lake Elwell up the hill to the WTP site on property previously held by the US Bureau of Reclamation.

North Central Montana Authority—Construction on the Shelby-to-Cut Bank project segment was begun in September 2015. Pipeline construction work proceeded well into last autumn, including completion of all horizontal boring from Shelby to Cut Bank before winter shutdown. The pipeline contractor remobilized in mid-March; crews have been installing between 3500 and 5000 feet per week, with completion of pipe installation anticipated within a week. Cleanup, thrust blocking, and additional connection work will proceed through the fall. Substantial completion on pipeline work is anticipated by mid-December. Central Excavation of Great Falls, the contractor for the Cut Bank metering station, water storage standpipe and Ethridge booster pump station (BPS), mobilized in late February. Iron work and concrete pours for the BPS are being dealt with by Central and its subcontractors, and access roads have been installed to both the BPS and standpipe locations. A concrete pour at the standpipe burst a metal form, and the contractor was required to remove that concrete, re-form and re-pour.

Dry-Redwater:

In June 2015 a bill for Federal authorization of both the Musselshell-Judith regional project and Dry-Redwater regional project was introduced by Senator Daines, with support from Senator Tester. Rep. Zinke introduced a companion bill in the House late in Calendar 2015. The language authorizing these two systems has been incorporated into legislation on drought relief and energy issues. The larger bill was recently heard in the full Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and was passed to the full Senate.

Through the Sidney South project, Dry Redwater in September 2014 began providing water supply and limited sewer service to properties south of Sidney. A water main extension planned for an area known as East Yellowstone has been bid and awarded, and the contractor is currently awaiting a Notice to Proceed. There is financial assistance from Richland County for engineering services. Plans and specifications were reviewed and approved by Drinking Water SRF at DEQ. A uniform application for TSRWS funds was evaluated by DNRC; combined funds and an SRF loan are being utilized to finance the project. A DEQ compliance order for the Montana Dakota Utility (MDU) facility at the end of this line has been in place, and is strong motivation to complete the pipeline to them yet in calendar 2016 .

Central Montana (Musselshell-Judith project):

The 2015 Legislature authorized TSRWS funding for ground-water monitoring in the Judith Basin, based on an RDGP grant application. With a grant agreement in place, monitoring has begun, and will run for 3 monitoring seasons. Bids were opened earlier in 2016 on proposed extended pump tests, spring monitoring, monitoring well installations, and additional activities.

The Authority has applied for funding of Phase 1 of engineering activities on the segment between the Ubet wellfield location and Judith Gap to Harlowton. LiDar, environmental and easement work will all be incorporated in this first phase, funded by TSRWS program money.

End of Updates

Conclusion of Meeting

Next meeting is set for Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at the DNRC location 1539 11th avenue, Helena, MT 59620 from 9:30-12:00 am in the Montana Room (first floor conference room). Contact Alice Stanley with questions.

Meeting Adjourned